

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 21, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 46, and 59 through 63 are currently pending in the application. Claims 33 and 45 stand rejected. Claims 34 through 40 and 46 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Claims 1 through 32, 41 through 44 and 59 through 63 are allowed.

Per this response, Applicant has cancelled claims 34 and 46, amended claims 33, 35 and 45, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Objection to claim 46

The Examiner objects to claim 46 stating that, in line 3 thereof, “the boundary” should be – the second opposing boundary –. Applicant notes that claim 46 is cancelled herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,115,260 to Hayward et al.

Claims 33 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayward et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,115,260).

Claim 33

Applicant notes that claim 33 has been amended to include the subject matter previously set forth in dependent claim 34, which subject matter has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicant notes that certain language in claim 33 has been indicated by the Examiner as not constituting a limitation in any patentable sense. While Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner’s position regarding such language, claim 33 has been amended herein to remove the language therefrom.

Applicant submits that claim 33 is allowable over Hayward and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance thereof.

Claim 45

Applicant notes that claim 45 has been amended to include the subject matter previously set forth in dependent claim 46, which subject matter has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicant notes that certain language in claim 45 has been indicated by the Examiner as not constituting a limitation in any patentable sense. While Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner's position regarding such language, claim 45 has been amended herein to remove the language therefrom.

Applicant, therefore, submits that claim 45 is allowable over Hayward and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance thereof.

Objections to Claims 34 through 40 and 46/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 34 through 40 and 46 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form.

Applicant notes that claims 34 and 46 have been cancelled herein. Additionally, claims 35 through 40 depend from claim 33 which, Applicant submits, is allowable. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 35 through 40.



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ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 33, 35 and 45 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 33, 35 through 45, and 59 through 63 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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